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 THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

ESTABLISHED 1841

Hongkong, 9th September, 1898.

**The Daily Press.**

HONGKONG, October 5th 1898.

MR. ARTHUR LITTLE, who is now at home, has been requested by the editor of the *Contemporary Review* to give some account of "our own reputed sphere of influence" in China, the Yangtze Valley, and his contribution, which will be found exceptionally interesting, appears in the September number. Mr. LITTLE, as the pioneer of steam navigation on the Upper Yangtze and as victor of long acquaintance with the region, is well qualified to describe the physical characteristics and the commercial possibilities of our reputed "sphere." On these points we are content to sit at Mr. LITTLE's feet; concerning his political reflections we join issue with him. Although the Yangtze Valley affords us a magnificent sphere of influence it is "really to be regarded as ours," says Mr. LITTLE, "it must not be supposed that equally valuable regions are not to be found outside of it. Thus to the south of this region, which may be roughly designated as lying between latitudes 28 deg. and 32 deg. North, we have, between latitudes 22 deg. and 28 deg. North, the five rich southern provinces of Fukien, Kwangtung, Kwangsi, Kweichow, and Yunnan, generally claimed as the French sphere, lying as they do to the north, and west (sic) of the French possessions in Cochin-China and Annam." By whom is this region "generally claimed" as the French sphere? By a few hot-headed French journalists, perhaps, but not formally by the French Government, we believe. Indeed, so far as Yunnan is concerned Great Britain and France have mutually agreed that neither shall claim any exclusive privileges, while as regards the southern provinces in general similar assurances of non-alienation have been given by China to Great Britain as well as to France. As regards Kwangtung in particular, that province is the historical of Hongkong and cannot be allowed to fall into the sphere of any foreign Power. Yet Mr. LITTLE's casual reference to it as well as to the other southern provinces as being "generally claimed as the French sphere" reads almost like a tacit admission of the claim.

In his concluding paragraph Mr. LITTLE says it is obvious that our sphere of influence is a pure mirage as long as it is not acknowledged by our rival Powers. The obviousness of that is indisputable. Mr. LITTLE then goes on to refer to various treaties alleged to have been made by France and Russia to Lord Roseberry when he was Prime Minister with reference to the partition of China. "Lord Roseberry is reported to have scouted the idea in toto," whereupon the partition, in which he "might have had a preponderant voice," goes on quietly without him. Reference having been made to the recent proceedings of Germany, Russia, and France, Mr. LITTLE says, "The much-vaunted 'open door' has been ruled slammed in our face, and it is useless to worry more about it." How and when was the door slammed? In there one single spot in China in which an article of British origin has been sold in which the same article cannot be as freely sold to-day? Is the

establishment of open ports to be considered a slamming of the open door? Do we consider the establishment of Hongkong as a slamming of the open door in anybody's face? On the contrary we are accustomed to speak of our own efforts as having opened the trade of China to the world at large. But if Hongkong is not a closed door can it be correct to speak of the free ports of Kweichow and Tientsin as closed doors? They may throw political influence into the hands of our rivals, in fact cannot fail to do so, but closed doors they certainly are not. To be strictly accurate we should perhaps differentiate between the two ports named, since the formal declaration of the freedom of Tientsin has not yet been published, but that is merely a matter of time; the arrangements are pending, just as are our own arrangements with reference to the Kowloon territory.

Mr. LITTLE confesses himself a convert to the "sphere of influence" policy, but he seems to think that spheres of influence and the open door are antithetical terms, whereas they are quite compatible if by "open door" we understand simply an open door for trade and by "sphere of influence" spheres of political influence. Mr. LITTLE, however, with the enthusiasm of a convert, is prepared to accept spheres of influence in the widest acceptance of the term and without qualification of any kind. A strong sentimental regard for, if not admiration of, Chinese civilization, coupled with a genuine liking for the people amidst whom he has spent his life, has, Mr. LITTLE says, ever led him to point out the value of the work of supporting the independence of China, and permitting as well as "aiding her to work out her reformation" in her own way, as the Japanese were allowed to do, nay, as he feels convinced, China in time would have done. "But," he continues, "the Fates have decreed otherwise! What, then, should Britain now do? Clearly the course of a wise man, when he finds the front door irrevocably closed (for we surely cannot fight France, Russia, and Germany combined in order to force it open again, let alone the fact that these Powers have just as good a right to their opinion of the best way to read 'cracked china' as we have to ours) is to try another way round. Thus we have now 'nothing but the sphere of influence' to fall back upon; if this is a mirage at the moment, it need not remain so, provided our Government, with a united and determined nation to back it, will seriously 'batter the problem and not forgetting 'Bismarck's do ut des, not give it up until—' by fair means if possible—our sphere in China is a firmly acknowledged fact, and not, as it is to-day, a subject for derision."

With the making of our sphere in China a firmly acknowledged fact we cordially agree, but would go a step further and advocate that as Great Britain in her sphere will keep the door open to the trade of the world, so ought she to insist that her neighbours shall do the same in whatever spheres they may acquire, so that throughout the length and breadth of China trade

the *Esmeralda*, which arrived from Manila yesterday, had a very full passenger list. Admiral Montijo and family are amongst those who arrived by her.

The rainfall at Tientsin on Monday night was 4.75 inches and the water is 5 inches above the overflow. The rainfall at Peking was 4.30 inches, water 2 feet above overflow.

The Marquis of Tweeddale, the Chairman of the Eastern Extension Australasian and China Telegraph Co. and of the Eastern and the other Associated Companies, has been made a Knight of the Order of the Bath.

At the registry yesterday Captain Martin, master of the German steamer *Hansa*, was fined \$50 for neglecting to report the arrival of his ship to the Harbour Master's office within 48 hours of his arrival, and he was fined a further \$100 for leaving the harbour without a clearance.

The Secretary of the Panion Mining Co. Limited, advises us that he has received the following notice from the Chinese Government: "The result of the September census of the mine ran 27 days crushing 2,400 tons yielding 179 ounces of crushed gold. The cyanide plant has been running for 27 days, crushing 2,400 tons of ore, yielding to produce 1,150 (weight). Generally the prospects are encouraging."

Amongst the cases which came before Commander Hastings at the Magistrate's Court yesterday, a case of assault was charged with hitting off crackers in Jubilee Street. He was fined \$15, or six weeks. His wife begged to be allowed to pay the fine, having brought some money for the purpose, but defendant refused to allow her to do so, and entered the court with the air of a martyr while his devoted spouse wept aloud.

At the Magistrate's Court yesterday a seaman named J. A. Axworthy was charged with behaving in a disorderly manner. P. C. Ritchie said that at a quarter past ten on Monday night he was on duty in Queen's Road Central when he saw defendant fighting with several others opposite the Sportsman's Arms. He tried to induce him to go away, but he refused to move, though he made up his mind to leave him alone. Defendant was under the influence of drink. He did not give any trouble when arrested. Defendant, when asked by the Magistrate for the purpose, but defendant refused to answer him. He was going to go quietly when I started fighting with a man. The next thing I remember was going along the road with the officer. He was fined \$5.

The third match in the polo tournament will be played to-day at 4.30 p.m. between the Royal Artillery and the King's Own Subalterns. A KING'S OWN. 1. Captain. 2. Colonel. 3. Major. 4. Lieutenant. 5. Sergeant. 6. Corporal. 7. Bombardier. 8. Gunner. 9. Driver. 10. Farrier. 11. Veterinary. 12. Saddler. 13. Blacksmith. 14. Carpenter. 15. Joiner. 16. Painter. 17. Plumber. 18. Bricklayer. 19. Mason. 20. Stonemason. 21. Carver. 22. Sculptor. 23. Turner. 24. Glass. 25. Jeweller. 26. Watchmaker. 27. Clockmaker. 28. Silversmith. 29. Goldsmith. 30. Jewellery. 31. Bookbinder. 32. Stationer. 33. Printer. 34. Compositor. 35. Letterpress. 36. Lithographer. 37. Engraver. 38. Sculptor. 39. Painter. 40. Sculptor. 41. Carver. 42. Sculptor. 43. Turner. 44. Glass. 45. Jeweller. 46. Watchmaker. 47. Clockmaker. 48. Silversmith. 49. Goldsmith. 50. Jewellery. 51. Bookbinder. 52. Stationer. 53. Printer. 54. Compositor. 55. Letterpress. 56. Lithographer. 57. Engraver. 58. Sculptor. 59. Painter. 60. 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**REUTERS' TELEGRAMS.**  
 [SUPPLIED TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]
 **THE UNITED STATES.**  
 The Democratic Conventions of New Jersey and Connecticut, besides New York, have abandoned the Silver policy.  
 The Naval Estimates for the coming year amount to \$47,000,000, the largest on record.  
**PROPOSED CONGRESS FOR THE REPRESSION OF ANARCHISM.**  
 The Powers have accepted an invitation from Italy to hold a Congress to deliberate on the repression of Anarchism.  
**THE FASIOUDA QUESTION.**  
 The French Government has agreed to negotiate the Fasioda question immediately without awaiting Capt. Marchand's return.  
**THE SPANISH-AMERICAN PEACE CONFERENCE.**  
 The Peace Conference was opened in Paris on Sunday. The deliberations are kept absolutely secret.

**THE DEATH OF THE EMPEROR OF CHINA.**  
 A statement is published in Shanghai that the Emperor of China committed suicide on the 21st September, but it is not likely to be true.  
**THE CHARGES AGAINST LETTER-CARRIERS.**  
 A RE-HEARING.  
 Our readers will remember that quite recently a postman named Charles Thomas aged 42, of Fung U, was sentenced to six months' hard labour for detaining letters without lawful authority or excuse, another postman named Li Ho, aged 28, was sentenced to six months' hard labour for detaining a letter. Subsequently Mr. Justice Braddon applied for a re-hearing on behalf of defendants, and the application was granted on condition that they should leave the country within 14 days. The re-hearing took place yesterday afternoon. The Hon. A. M. Thompson, Postmaster-General, presided. The cases for the prosecution were heard by Mr. Justice Braddon, and the cases for the defence by Mr. Justice Braddon.

**THE NEW HOTEL ON SHAMSHUI ROAD.**  
 The new hotel, which is being erected on the site of the old hotel, is being erected on the site of the old hotel. The new hotel, which is being erected on the site of the old hotel, is being erected on the site of the old hotel. The new hotel, which is being erected on the site of the old hotel, is being erected on the site of the old hotel.

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